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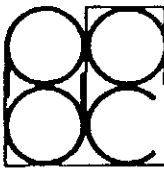
Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building
(100F Temple)
419-423 Seventh Street, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-604

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION
425 15TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

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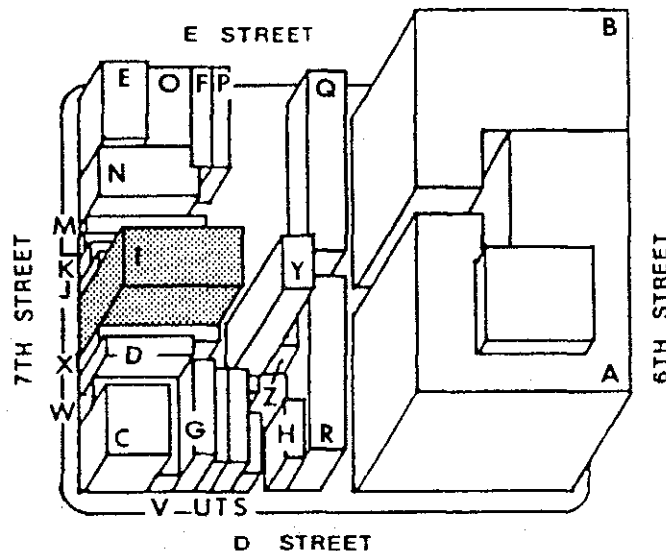
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS No. DC-604

HABS
DC
WASH
344-

Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Building
419 - 423 Seventh Street, NW
Lot 36



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 457, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 457, see HABS No. DC-597.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The IOOF Temple is located on the east side of Seventh Street in a densely developed row of one-to-four-story commercial buildings. The seven-story-plus-attic commercial style structure features modest neoclassical detailing and a curved mansard roof. Its rectangular lot fronts seventy-seven feet on Seventh Street, which slopes south toward D Street and beyond it to Pennsylvania Avenue, and measures one hundred twenty feet from east to west. The Seventh Street facade is covered by limestone ashlar block cladding and is divided horizontally by three cornice lines and vertically into four structural bays by piers. A convex mansard roof pierced by dormers caps the building. A projecting metal and glass storefront has replaced the original ground floor facade; only the stonework of the entry located in the southernmost bay remains intact. This entry opens into a short narrow hall which terminates in a small irregularly shaped vertical circulation room. A central entry opens into a single large retail space that is six structural bays deep and four structural bays wide. On the east (rear) of the room, there is an enclosed mezzanine, a small shipping and receiving room, and a service core. Upper floors are arranged in a similar manner, with partitioning to accommodate the needs of individual tenants. The uppermost floors, which house the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, are not accessible to the public.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has maintained a lodge on this site since early in Washington's history. Their current building was erected in 1917 to designs of the architect, M. S. Plager (Permit #51, 7/6/1917). The building is larger in size and scale than its neighbors; however, its classically detailed carved stone facade helps, especially near street level, to reduce its potentially disruptive impact on the streetscape. The modern storefront, though out of character with the building itself, continues the row of lively show windows at pedestrian level.

The building itself is a competent, but not exceptional, example of early-Twentieth Century commercial style architecture. Typical of the style, the building's structural frame is made apparent on the facade by piers and spandrels filled with generous horizontal window openings. However, the variations and grouping of floors introduced by cornice lines, recessed spandrels and treatments of some piers as pilasters fail to create an integrated whole. The facade appears to be three stacked buildings with an approximate equivalence, rather

than a hierarchical interrelationship, among them. The classical details enrich the facade somewhat, but are timid in light of the overall mass. Perhaps the most successful feature is the mansard with its unique Palladian-motif dormers.

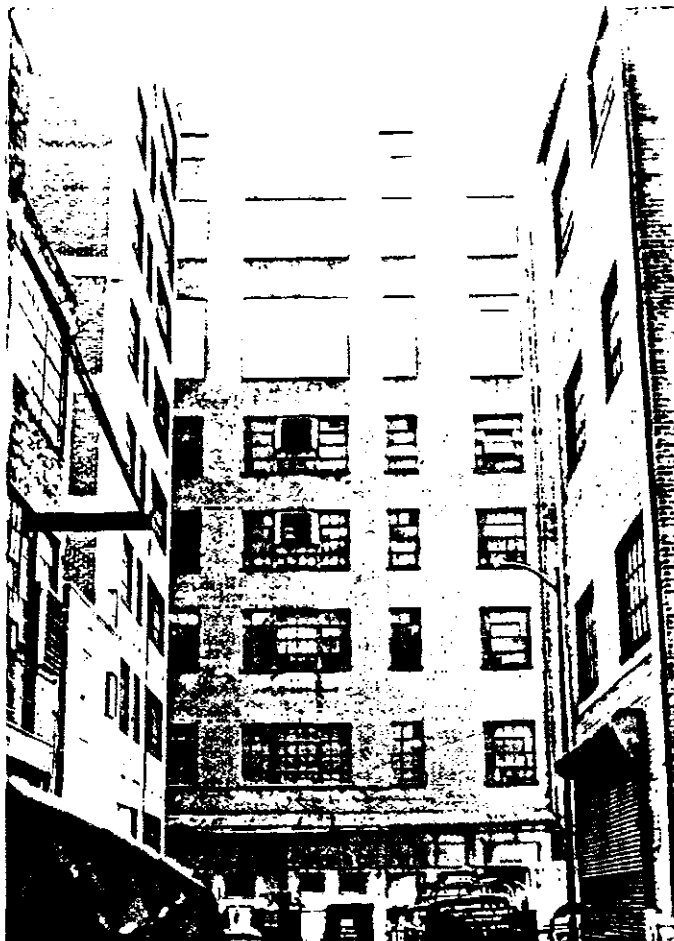
SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Facades: The Seventh Street (west) facade is seven stories high, plus an attic, and four structural bays wide. It is covered by limestone ashlar block cladding. The floors are expressed as three stacked groups of two, three, and two stories. Originally, five pilasters with decorative palmette capitals rose to a cornice line between the second and third stories. The frieze of the cornice line has metal letters which state, "Lifetime Furniture - Mayer & Co. - Lifetime Furniture". At the first level the four north pilasters have been disrupted by a modern storefront which also altered the original entrance. The existing retail entrance is directly beneath the central pilaster. It is recessed and is flanked by projecting storefront windows with aluminum frames. At the extreme south end of the west facade there is a second entry which has a decorative limestone door surround with an ancone-supported hood. The glass double doors, sidelights, and double transom have aluminum frames. The third to fifth floors are simply articulated with piers which define the structural bays and terminate in a simple entablature. Five circles, one incised above each pilaster, decorate this frieze. Centered on the frieze are metal letters which read, "IOOF Temple". Five pilasters rise from this simple cornice line to terminate above the seventh floor in a shallow decorative cornice. Each of these pilasters have floral capitals. At the extreme north and south corners of the cornice line are lion head plaques which serve as consoles. A convex mansard roof covered by clay tile caps the building. Four Palladian motif dormer windows, centered over the structural bays, pierce this roof on the west facade. The mansard roof terminates two window bays deep on the north and south elevations. Each of the four dormers on the west facade has a keystone which carries one of the letters, IOOF.

Window treatments vary throughout the building. On the west facade alone there are several different windows: at the first level there are large display windows; at the second level there are wood-framed three-part windows surmounted by tripartite transom lights. The third through fifth floor have similar windows without the transoms. Windows at the sixth and seventh floors are metal-frame translucent and appear not be contemporary with the building. The dormer windows are filled with glass block. On the east (alley) elevation, the lower floors feature industrial metal-frame windows while the sixth and seventh floors have translucent awning windows.



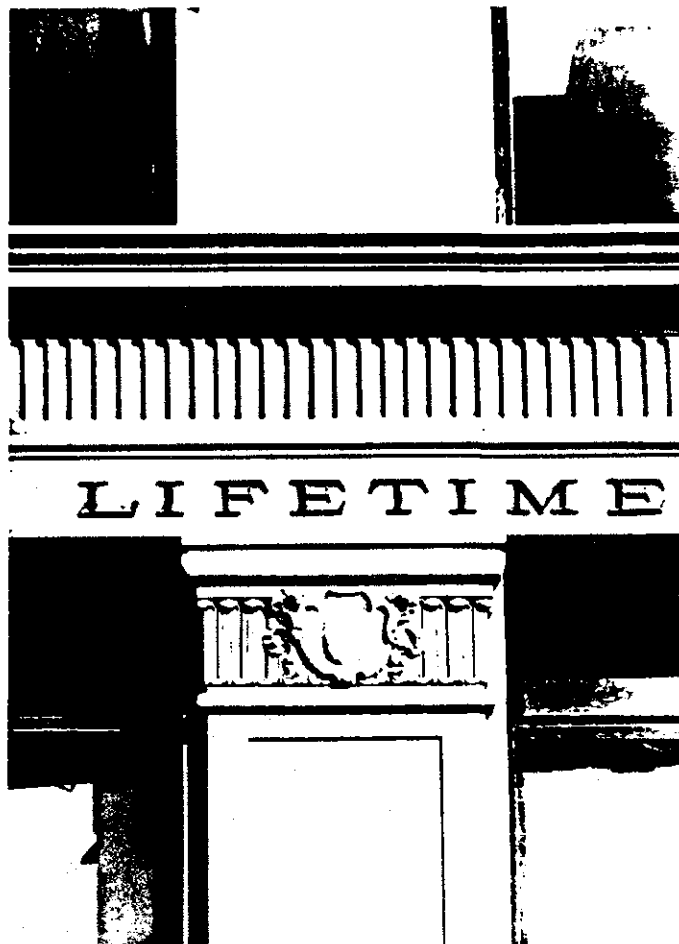
OBLIQUE VIEW OF
SEVENTH STREET (WEST)
FACADE



PARTIAL VIEW OF EAST
ELEVATION FROM PUBLIC
ALLEY



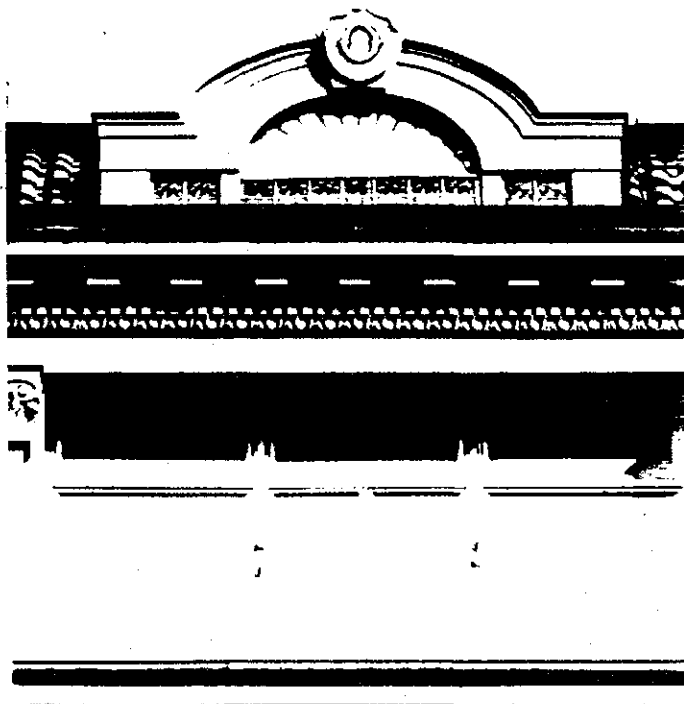
WEST FACADE: DETAIL OF
ENTABLATURES ABOVE FIFTH
AND SEVENTH FLOORS



WEST FACADE: DETAIL OF
PILASTER CAPITAL AND
ENTABLATURE ABOVE SECOND
FLOOR



WEST FACADE: DETAIL OF
PILASTER CAPITAL AND
CORNICE ABOVE SEVENTH
FLOOR AT NORTH END



WEST FACADE: DETAIL OF
CORNICE ABOVE SEVENTH
FLOOR; PARTIAL VIEW OF
PALLADIAN-MOTIF DORMER
OF EIGHTH STORY

Lot 10 (Southern Portion of Sublot 36)
419 Seventh Street

Because 419 Seventh Street houses the International Order of Odd Fellows Temple built in 1917, this portion of the lot description will cover only up to 1916. For the lot description from 1917 to the present please refer to the Lot 11 lot description.

1819.....Lot 10 was assessed in the name of Elizabeth Cox according to the Washington Tax Records.

1824.....The tax books indicate that Lot 10 was assessed \$1,406.00 in the name of Elizabeth Cox.

1844.....Elizabeth Cox's assessment rose to \$2,445.00.

1855.....The Washington City Directories records the Society Sales Room as the tenant of 419 Seventh Street.

1859.....The northern portion of Lot 10 was assessed \$5,803.00 in the name of W. W. Moore.

1863

to

1871.....The Heilburn and Company Boot and Shoe Store was the occupant of 419 Seventh Street according to the City Directories.

1870.....The northern portion of Lot 10 was assessed in conjunction with Lot 11 for \$22,000.00 in the name of the International Order of Odd Fellows Temple.

1871/79..The northern portion of Lot 10 was assessed in the name of the Grand Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows Temple for \$13,743.00.

1883.....The City Directories indicate that the International Order of Odd Fellows was the occupant of 419 Seventh Street.

1883/84..The Grand Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellow's assessment remained at \$13,743.00.

1893/94..The tax assessment records indicate that the International Order of Odd Fellows was assessed \$16,797.00 for the northern portion of Lot 10. The value of improvements to the property was \$8,000.00.

1897

to

1900.....Max Minster, a hat, cap and fur dealer, was listed in the City Directories as the occupant of 419 Seventh Street.

1899/

1900.....The Grand Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows was reassessed \$16,979.00 for the northern part of Lot 10; however, the value of improvements decreased to \$7,000.00.

1902

to

1917.....The City Directories list Mark Keller as the occupant of 419 Seventh Street.

1917.....A building permit was issued to 419-423 Seventh Street which authorized the construction of a seven story building to be used as an office and a lodge room. A store would occupy the lower level. The front of the building was to be constructed of Indiana Limestone, the building was to have a mansard roof, and the elevator shaft would be protected by terra cotta partitions and an iron door (Permit #51; Architect: M. S. Plager).

1917.....Note: From this point on the discussion of the northern portion of Lot 10 will be included in the Lot 11 description.

Lot 11 (Sublot 36)
421-423 Seventh Street

Lot 11 is located at the center of Seventh Street on Square 457. Its Seventh Street frontage measures approximately 50 feet and along its east-west axis it measures close to 120 feet. Lot 11, together with the northern part of lot 10 became subplot 36, which became the site of the Grand Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows in 1917. For this reason the northern part of lot 10 will be included with the lot description of subplot 36 from 1917 to the present.

1819.....The Washington Tax Records indicate that lot 11 was in the name of Elizabeth Cox.

1824.....Elizabeth Cox was assessed \$1427.00 for lot 11.

1829/33..The assessment, still in the name of Elizabeth Cox, rose to \$2481.00.

1844.....Cox's assessment remained at \$2481.00.

1850

to

1862.....The city directories list the C.S. Fowler China and Glass store as the occupant of 421 Seventh Street.

1858.....H.A. Goldsmith, a cabinet and furniture dealer, was listed as the tenant of 423 Seventh Street.

1859.....Lot 11 was assessed to W.W. Moore, trustee, for \$11,786.00.

1863

to

1873.....The city directories list the Webb & Beveridge China and Glass store as the tenant of 421 Seventh Street.

1870.....The tax records indicate that lot 11, together with the northern half of lot 10 was assessed to the Odd Fellows Hall for \$22,000.00.

1873

to

1895.....The city directories list Asa U. Hazelton, a boot and shoe manufacturer, as the tenant of 423 Seventh Street.

1878/79..Lot 11 was assessed \$27,914.00 to the Grand Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows of the District of Columbia.

1882

to

1895.....The city directories intermittently list Moses F. Eiseman, a clothier, as the tenant of 421 Seventh Street.

1883/84..The assessment of subplot 36 remained at \$27,914.00 in the name of the I.O.O.F. (refer to the plat maps).

1884

to

1891.....George Breitbarth, a furniture dealer, was listed as the tenant of 419-423 Seventh Street in the city directories.

1888

to

1892.....The city directories list Kahn and Company, clothiers, as the occupants of 421 Seventh Street.

1893

to

1894.....The Grand Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows was assessed \$34,117.00 for the ground and \$35,000.00 for the improvements to the property.

1896.....The clothier, Bertha Eiseman, was listed in the city directories as the occupant of 421 Seventh Street.

1899/

1900.....The Grand Lodge's assessment for the ground remained at \$34,117.00 however the value of improvements dropped to \$30,000.00.

1906

to

1911.....The Famous Clothing store occupied 421 and 423 throughout these years according to the city directories.

1917.....A building permit dated July 6th was issued to 419 to 423 Seventh Street which authorized the construction of seven-story building to be used for an office, a lodge room and a store on the lower level. The front was to be constructed of Indiana Limestone, the building was to have a mansard roof, and the elevator shafts were to be protected by terra cotta partitions and an iron door (Permit No. 51, Architect: M.S. Piger).

On November 9th of this same year a permit was issued to install two electric passenger elevators (Permit No. 1457, cost \$1200.00).

1918

to

1967.....The city directories list the Mayer and Company clothing store as the tenant of 419-423 Seventh Street.

For this same period of time, the city directories list the International Order of Odd Fellows as the proprietor of the building.

1929.....An August 2 building permit was issued to point up a brick wall (Permit No. 125,963, Builder: William Dooney, contractor: G.A. Fuller Co; cost: \$1200.00).

1930.....A building permit was issued on July 17th to repair and reinforce an existing marquee (Permit No. 173739).

1932.....A building permit which authorized the repair of the stonework over the main entrance (Permit No. 155,298, Architect: W.S. Piger; Builder: David Herrson).

1944.....A November 14 building permit authorized the construction of a fire-proof partition around the stairway and to change doors at the entrance on Sixth and Seventh Streets. (Permit No. 274, 809; Builder: Davis, Wick and Rosergarten).

1948.....A building permit was issued to install a wire mesh door and panel between the fourth and fifth floors of the rear stairs (Permit No. 209,415; Architect: A.U. Wade; Builder: Fred S. Gichner).

1981.....The building is now occupied by the International Order of Odd Fellows Temple.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map